

Surah 41. Ha-Mim

Asad: and so they say, [as it were:] "Our hearts are veiled from whatever thou callest us to, [O Muhammad,] and in our ears is deafness, and between us and thee is a barrier.⁴ Do, then, [whatever thou wilt, whereas,] behold, we shall do [as we have always done]!"

Malik: They say: "Our hearts are concealed in veils from the faith to which you call us, there is deafness in our ears and there is a barrier between you and us: so you work your way and we keep on working our way."

Mustafa Khattab:

They say, "Our hearts are veiled against what you are calling us to, there is deafness in our ears, and there is a barrier between us and you. So do whatever you want? and so shall we!"

Pickthall: And they say: Our hearts are protected from that unto which thou (O Muhammad) callest us, and in our ears there is a deafness, and between us and thee there is a veil. Act, then. Lo! we also shall be acting.

Yusuf Ali: They say: "Our hearts are under veils (concealed) from that to which thou dost invite us and in [our ears is] a deafness and between us and thee is a screen: so do thou (what thou wilt); for us we shall do (what we will!)." ^{4465 4466}

Author Comments

4 - For this rendering of the term hijab, see note [36] on the first sentence of [7:46](#). See also [6:25](#). The "saying" of those who turn away from the message of the Qur'an is, of course, figurative, describing only their attitude.

4465 - The consequence of their wilful rejection is that a distance is created between Revelation and those for whom it is meant; their ears become deaf, so that the voice falls fainter and fainter on their ears: they feel a bar between themselves and the Messenger who comes to teach them. Cf. vii. 25.

4466 - This is either a superiority complex adopting the sarcastic tone of an inferiority complex, or it expresses calculated indifference to spiritual teaching. In effect it says: 'Our hearts and minds are not intelligent enough to understand your noble ideas, nor our ears sufficiently acute to hear their exposition: you and we are quite different; there is a gulf between us. Why worry about us? You go your way, and we shall go ours!'

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